



# Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

**Dedicated to Preserving Our Built Heritage**

August 2021 Volume 48, No. 3

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## **The Dominion Observatory Complex: its Significance and Future**

*By the Dominion Observatory Preservation Committee*



*Photo: S. Odell 2021*

*Dominion Observatory, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.*

### **Architectural Heritage**

The Dominion Observatory, Canada's federally mandated national observatory, was modeled on the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, England, and it is a masterpiece of federal architecture. The Heritage

Character Statement of the Federal Buildings Review Office identifies the historic significance of the Observatory:

The Dominion Observatory is one of the best examples of the important historic theme of the advancement of

# Heritage Ottawa NEWSLETTER

*Heritage Ottawa is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of Ottawa's built heritage.*

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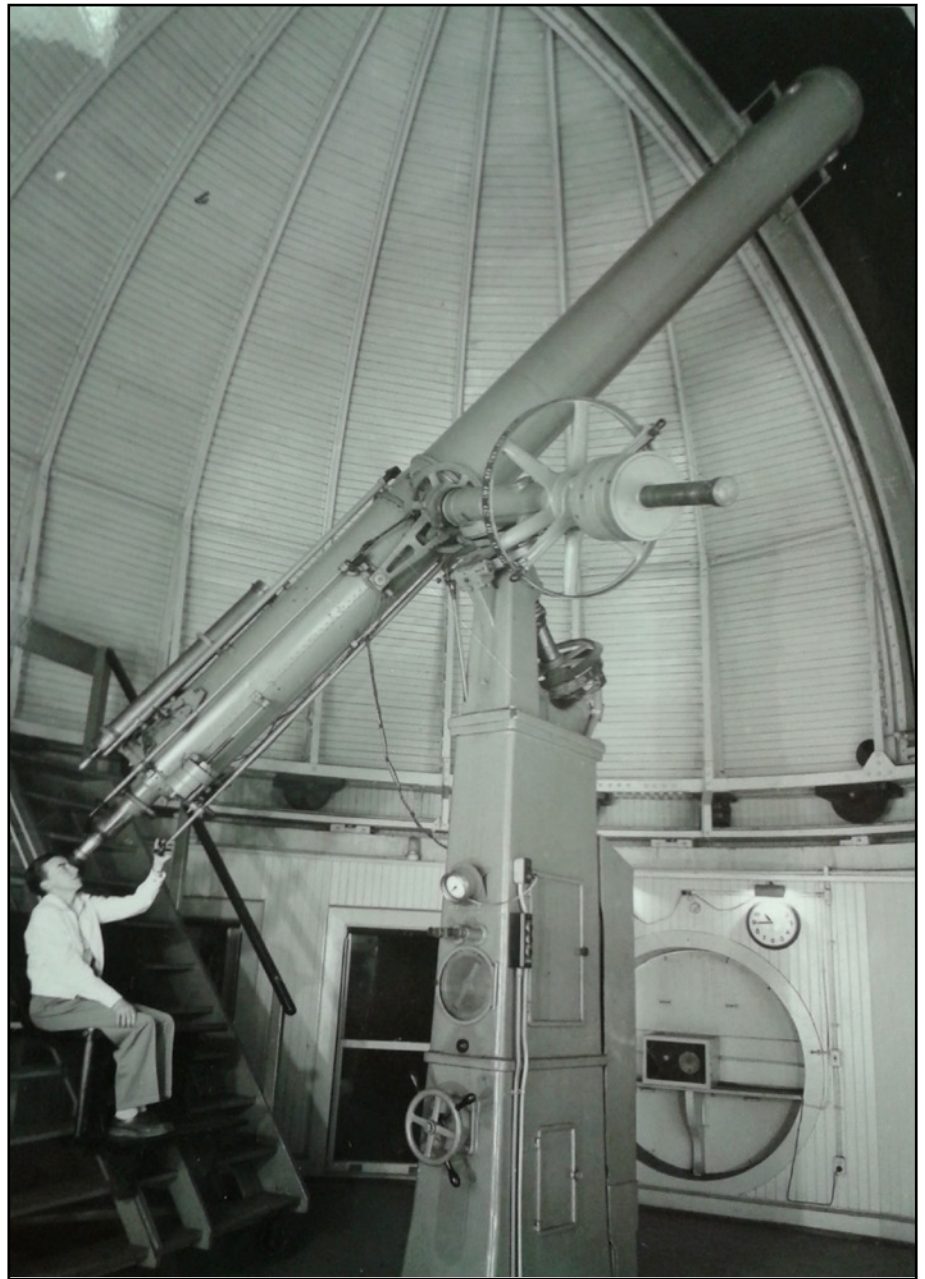
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*Heritage Ottawa acknowledges the financial support of the City of Ottawa and the Ontario Ministry of Culture*

## Dominion Observatory Complex continued...



*Astronomer Miriam Burland with 15" Refracting Dominion Telescope inside the Dominion Observatory Dome c.1945-55.*

pure and applied scientific research at the national level in Canada. Established to aid and improve the survey work of western Canada through the investigation and application of positional astronomy, the Observatory also served as a world-class centre for astronomical and geophysical research, and developed a national profile as the

source of Dominion Observatory Official Time.

It was constructed in Ottawa on the Central Experimental Farm in 1902-04, a location which was at the time suitably insulated from the light pollution of the city.

The Observatory Building itself is one of several interconnecting

*Photo: Natural Resources Canada, Earth Sciences Department, Ottawa.*



buildings within the Observatory Campus, which were designed in the Romanesque Revival style by architect David Ewart of the Department of Public Works. The creation of this institution marked a new identity for Canada as a modern nation rooted in progress in scientific research.

## Scientific Heritage

The Observatory buildings as a group combine to create a cultural landscape of scientific purpose, and that scientific landscape remains intact today. Some highlights of the historical significance of the Dominion Observatory are:

- For 118 years, it has been the location of Canada's prime meridian, a counterpart to the Royal Observatory Greenwich, England.
- It was key to the mapping and surveying of Canada, including the borders of the western provinces.
- It is still an active site for Canada's Department of Seismology, related earth science programs, and the Office of Energy Efficiency (part of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)).
- The Astronomer's House is used by indigenous groups that advise NRCan.
- It was the first national institution to employ women astronomers, namely Dr. Miriam Burland and Mary Grey
- It is the historic site of Canada's official "long dash" time signal, broadcast heard on CBC Radio at 1 PM Eastern Time, before it was transferred to National Research Council.

There are seven buildings that comprise the historic core of the Dominion Observatory Complex that have been designated for their architectural, historical, and environmental significance by the Federal Heritage Buildings Review Office (FHBRO). Three have the highest heritage classification that FHBRO can accord: the Observatory Building, the Photo Equatorial Building, and the South Azimuth Building. Four have the second highest level of protection that FHBRO can accord: The Seismology Survey Building, the Geophysical Laboratory, Observatory House, and the Machine Shop.



*Observatory dome - interior view of ribbed walls and roof opening. Students cleaning the Dominion Telescope.*

The Observatory Complex has also had significant educational public outreach astronomy programs in service of its mandate to make the night sky accessible for everyone. The astronomy program at the site closed its doors in 1970, and the Dominion Telescope was moved to an observatory at the Canadian Science and Technology Museum in 1974.

The last astronomer, Mary Grey, was able to continue the educational program there. However, this telescope is presently in storage at the museum, since the observatory was removed during renovations in 2016.

It is time to ask for the telescope's return to its original location at the Dominion Observatory, and for the Observatory to again function as an educational institution, introducing Canadians to the night sky.

## Today's Challenges

Natural Resources Canada is the steward department of this national architectural gem. However, despite designation as federally significant heritage buildings, the site and its artifacts remain at risk. The new campus of the Ottawa Hospital is to be constructed adjacent to the Observatory. Concern for the possible impacts of the new hospital on the Observatory Campus led to the creation of the Dominion Observatory Preservation Committee (DOPC) of the Ottawa Center of the Royal Architectural Society of Canada, with support from the national RASC of nearly 7,800 members.

The DOPC is seeking to enhance protection for the Observatory Campus, so that development nearby does not diminish its future as an outstanding national monument, with major scientific and heritage value to Canada, and an ongoing educational purpose.

The City of Ottawa launched consultations on the new hospital's Master Site Plan in the spring of 2021. In the context of these public consultations DOPC has raised concerns regarding the heritage protection of the Dominion Observatory Campus centred on

an accurate understanding of the historic significance of the Dominion Observatory Complex, and how this significance and restored use might be impacted by the new hospital. Our concerns are the following:

- It is imperative to retain the correct sight lines from the Dominion Observatory if it is to be used once again as an observatory for public education.
- For future possible use of the Dominion Telescope, it must "see" especially the motions of moon and planets which, like the sun, pass across the sky near the "plane of the ecliptic". This arc through the southern sky, depending on yearly season, can be as low as 15° above the horizon. It is critical that site lines from the dome of the main observatory building not face any obstructions above 15°. Both immediate and future hospital building heights or rooftop additions must not exceed these sight limits.
- It is important not to exacerbate light pollution. Use of full cut-off lighting fixtures directing illumination downward, is essential. The colour of the light is also important, since white or broad spectrum cannot be blocked with specialized telescope filters. Hospital buildings facing the Observatory should have relatively less window surfaces and should use tinted glass and interior shades. Planting grass or greenery throughout the hospital site instead of asphalt is preferred as it reflects less light skyward.
- The South Azimuth building is very close to Maple Drive, which is intended to become a main entrance to the Hospital for emergency vehicles. The

traffic plan indicates no changes to Maple Drive, and the planning documents suggest that the South Azimuth building be protected by "unobtrusive bollards". The protection of this important heritage building needs to be strengthened.

- Appropriate precautions before blasting on the hospital site should be taken to prevent any damage to seismology instruments and telescope piers seated underground on the bedrock. Construction nearby risks damaging the piers that provide physical isolation for the Telescope.
- Parking on the new hospital site has become a controversial topic. The Dominion Observatory site will require parking somewhere for its visitors, as will the indigenous groups working at the Astronomer's House.

In conclusion, the DOPC is seeking to enhance protection for the Observatory Campus, so that development nearby does not diminish its future as an outstanding national monument, with major scientific and heritage value to Canada and an ongoing educational purpose.

You can reach the DOPC at [dominionobservatorycommittee@gmail.com](mailto:dominionobservatorycommittee@gmail.com). A website for our group is under development. For more on the RASC Ottawa Centre site, visit: <https://ottawa.rasc.ca/presentations/series/dominion-observatory-preservation>.

*The Dominion Observatory Preservation Committee is part of the Ottawa Center of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada).*



# Bridges In Minto Condition

By Richard Belliveau

An enduring reward for moving to New Edinburgh some thirty years ago was the opportunity accorded to me to cross the Minto Bridges, on foot or bicycle, on my way to and from work every day. This gorgeous work of engineering and design spanning the Rideau River just before it falls into the Ottawa, is one of Ottawa's outstanding sites, accenting the parks, the running waters and even the modernist architecture surrounding it.

The bridges were built between 1900 and 1902 to link the Governor General's residence at Rideau Hall via Union Street with King Edward Avenue into a gracious ceremonial route to the Parliament Buildings, and were named for the popular and social Governor General of the time, the Earl of Minto (1898-1905). It was the first major beautification project of Sir Wilfrid Laurier's Ottawa Improvement Commission (OIC).

Mackenzie King, then a young official in the newly created Labour



*Minto bridges backed by old City Hall, now the John G Diefenbaker building.*

Department wrote of crossing the Minto bridges to attend a party at Rideau Hall. Years later, a colleague of mine reminisced about growing up in the Lowertown neighbourhood in the 1940's and 50's and jumping off the bridges on hot summer days to swim in the river, a practice strictly prohibited in more recent years.

The bridges also offer a platform

for viewing the annual cutting of the keys, when slits of ice are cut or dynamited from the river's winter icecap to facilitate a safe breakup of the ice in the early spring and avoid ice dams at the falls and flooding in the neighbourhood.

Often referred to as the Minto Bridge, in fact this complex consists of three bridges which connect the west bank of the Rideau River - where the Lester B. Pearson Building now stands - with Green Island in a single span, and then from Green Island in a double-span section to the smaller Maple Island; the third bridge, also a single span, goes to the New Edinburgh side of the river.

The bridges were designed by Robert Surtees, a busy Ottawa engineer, who also oversaw their construction. Surtees, who was born in England, was an early resident (1860) of New Edinburgh, and as a designer/architect developed the ByWard Market building and the Carleton County Court House (now Arts Court on Daly Avenue).



*Ornate finials atop the bridge portals*

Photos: Carolyn Quinn

The construction of the bridges was completed by the Dominion Bridge Company of Montreal.

The bridges are steel camelback through truss structures supported on stone masonry substructures. They were constructed with riveted connections, which was a relatively recent development in 1900, rather than pin connections. In accord with the ceremonial and decorative intentions of the bridge, the design is highly ornate, featuring detailed portal cresting and finials atop each side of the portals. The pedestrian sidewalk railings are described by *Historic Bridges.org* as “absolutely stunning” with an arch lattice railing design. The railing panel consists of curved bars arranged along the top part of the panel in the form of interlaced gothic arches, while the panel footing is simple lattice. This pedestrian timber-plank walkway is supported by beams extending from the main structure of the bridges, and thus is outside the trusses.

I remember vividly, one late winter morning after a light overnight snowfall, catching a rare natural visual phenomenon on this walkway. The



*Approach to the span connecting Green Island to King Edward Avenue.*

warming equinoctial sun as filtered through the latticework panels had melted most the snow on the boardwalk, but had left snow in the shadows of the latticework, as if the pattern had fallen directly off the steel ribs themselves, perfectly recreating the crossed-arch pattern all along the boardwalk, like the sugar piping of a fine pastry chef.

In recent years, there has been major rehabilitation of the bridges. In 1978, the old wooden timbers of the deck were replaced with asphalt on steel, which was itself replaced by steel grating in 1996. Even more extensive work was done between 2013 and 2017. A principal change was the replacement of the open-grating decks which had exposed the steel underbody of the bridges to severe damage from de-icing salt. In addition, the western span had to be made strong enough to support the weight of firetrucks and heavy service vehicles that may require access to the John G. Diefenbaker building on Green Island.

The new deck is a fibre-reinforced polymer and wood composite. According to the providers, Guardian Bridge Rapid Construction, this material is ten times stronger than steel as well as 30 percent lighter, and immune to corrosion. It is expected to provide an active service life of 75 years.

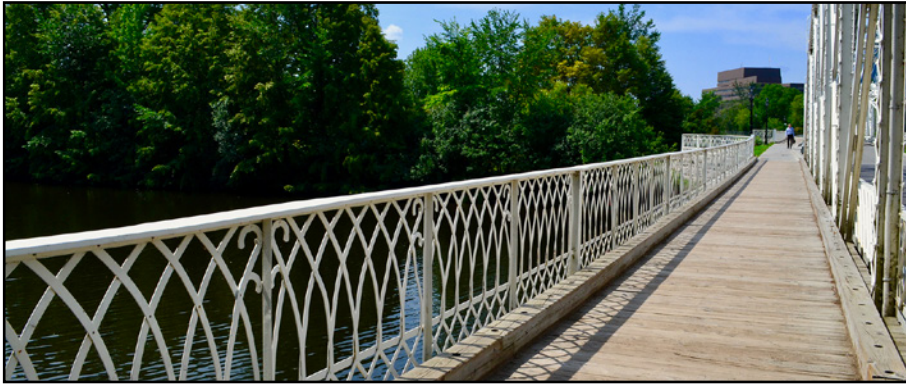
The bridges were designated as heritage structures under the *Ontario Heritage Act* in 1989.

The setting of the Minto bridges has changed dramatically since 1902. The Ceremonial Route anticipated by the OIC went instead along Sussex Drive, which was greatly beautified, over the Bytown Bridges. The stately elm-lined King Edward Avenue became a truck route to the bridge to Gatineau. The Green Island industrial site, that had been the *raison d'être* for the growth of New Edinburgh, was rehabilitated, and a new City Hall for the City of Ottawa was built in 1958; the City Hall was expanded in 1992 with an even more modern annex designed by Moshe Safdie, providing an elegant backdrop to the Minto bridges. The unfinished white-painted structural steel tower on the south end of this pavilion is, if anything,



*Minto Bridges in Winter.*





*The timbered pedestrian walkway with the arch lattice railing design.*

a tribute to the lovely white steel trusses of the Minto bridges. On the west bank of the Rideau, the Department of External Affairs built its headquarters which opened in 1972. The Minto bridges are a key historic and pedestrian link to these modern structures, and among the most graceful structures in the city.

*Richard Belliveau is a retired diplomat and a member of the Heritage Ottawa Board.*

## Westboro and Westboro Beach: From Farms to Mills to Summer Resorts

**By Allison Margot Smith**

In the 1800s, a bay on the south shore of the Ottawa River west of the city, came to be called “Thompson Bay” for the massive log boom – Thompson Boom – that was kept there. The boom was a floating storage area for logs waiting to go down to the mills of Bytown. It was in Thompson Bay that the community of Westboro Beach grew up. Today, Westboro Beach occupies a triangular piece of land bounded by the river to the north, on the east by Island Park Drive and on the south by Scott Street.

In the 1800s, and indeed, until the 1970s, the *waters* of the Ottawa River west of Bytown (later Ottawa) were the focus of the lumber trade. But the *land* on the south shore of the river was wilderness, that was becoming farmland. The first farm in this area west of Bytown was established in 1811 by Ira Honeywell. He bought 200 acres in what is now Britannia. He and his family farmed alone for six years until William Thomson arrived from Scotland in 1817 and established a 400-acre farm on land that later became Westboro. Thomson was followed by

Thomas Birch, from Ireland, in 1819, along with many others.

In 1852, James Skead arrived and established another farm on land that would become Westboro Beach. Skead would dramatically change the character of the area over the next twenty years.

In 1869, Skead built a steam-powered sawmill just downstream from today’s Westboro Beach. The Canada Central Railway Company laid railway track the following year connecting Carleton Place to Ottawa. The railway served Skead’s mill and several other mills and villages along the Ottawa River. Skead’s mill only operated for two years before it burned down, but Skead replaced it within four years with a larger sawmill. The new mill, its rail lines and yards, occupied most of the land west of Churchill Avenue and north of Scott Street to the river. Housing for the 175 mill workers developed on the streets east of Churchill.

The mill was so important in the area that the village around it came to be called “Skead’s Mills.” By this time the



*Cookery on JR Booth's Raft, ca 1880 - LAC - Item Id 3193658*



*All Saints Anglican Church Westboro.*

village had a post office, hotel and store, as well as the railway and its station.

But the economic depression of the mid- to late-1870s had a huge impact on James Skead's fortunes. In 1880, he was forced to sell his mill to E.B. Eddy who operated it until it also burned down in 1888.

The burning of the second Skead (later Eddy) mill brought about the end of an era for the area. E.B. Eddy's interests shifted to the larger paper mills at the Chaudière Falls. The land where the Skead/Eddy mill had burned sat empty for twenty years. The community of Skead's Mills was renamed "Westborough" in 1899.

From 1909 to 1914, the land of the former mill began to generate interest among real estate developers for the construction of homes and summer cottages. Riverfront development was taking place all along the Ottawa River west of the city, from Mechanicsville past Britannia. A tradition arose of an annual mass migration of city residents to their summer homes on May 1<sup>st</sup>, creating chaos on the streets.

By the end of the Great War, a resort area was developing at what had

come to be known as "Westboro Beach." Cottagers spent their summers enjoying the beach and entertaining guests. The community had its own canoe club and participated in regattas in which it competed against other canoe clubs from Britannia, Rideau River, New Edinburgh, and Rockcliffe.

In the 1920s, the beach was owned by a collection of community organizations. But in the mid-1930s, this began to change. In 1935, WWI veteran, Sam Ford, bought his first lot on the beach. He then bought five more lots, effectively controlling the beach. Ford built the wildly-popular Trocadero Dance Hall, with its live orchestra, nickelodeon, Bingo and boxing matches, as well as three rental cottages. He began to charge admission fees to use the beach. The Board of Trade tried to convince him to allow children to use the beach for free. He refused, so the Nepean Council and the Village of Westboro used their powers to fence off the right-of-way at the end of Imperial Avenue to provide public access to the river.

This arrangement went on until 1950 when Westboro became a part of the City of Ottawa. Sam Ford's

property was expropriated by the Federal District Commission, now the National Capital Commission. The Trocadero was torn down in 1950 and several of the cottages were moved to other locations in the community, off the waterfront.

As the beach resort disappeared, the community developed as an increasingly urban part of Ottawa. Richmond Road had become a busy shopping street with grocers, drugstores, butchers, and hardware stores, as well as banks, churches, the police station, and the town hall.

In the 1950s, the Western Parkway was built where the beach properties had been, severing the neighbourhoods from the river. By 1970, the railway line was gone, as was the railway station. Westboro was by then, as it is now, an integral part of Ottawa.

But some historic features remain today. All Saints Anglican Church, constructed in 1865, is the oldest remaining building in the area, dating to a time when Westboro was rural, pastoral land. To this day, the community of Westboro has a strong local bond, and is a place with its own centre and its own inimitable character.

*Allison Margot Smith is an historian and historical documentary filmmaker. She is a member of the board of Heritage Ottawa.*

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# Ottawa's Heritage Community Improvement Plan

By Ashley Kotarba

Photos: City of Ottawa

In June 2021 the Vittoria Trattoria restaurant on William Street in the ByWard Market received the first Heritage Community Improvement Plan (CIP) grant from the City of Ottawa. The CIP is a new tool intended to combat the loss of heritage buildings through demolition by neglect.

## Background

The Mayor's Heritage Matters Task Force was established in 2016, including a cross-section of Councillors, City staff, and community heritage stakeholders. One of the primary goals of the task force was to develop financial tools to assist in preventing demolition by neglect so that future generations can continue to enjoy the rich architectural heritage of our city.

Staff research found that more than 30 municipalities were offering a tax incentive program for heritage buildings. This led to an exploration of ways in which the City of Ottawa could offer a strong incentive to owners, beyond the existing Heritage Grant Program for Building Restoration. A Community Improvement Plan (CIP) seemed like the best solution. CIPs are a strategy to improve the economic vitality of areas and can improve quality of place through revitalization. CIPs provide a framework through which a municipality may choose to offer financial incentives directly to businesses and individuals within a specified CIP Project Area.

In January 2020, City Council approved a new Community Improvement Plan that focuses entirely on heritage buildings. The



*35-37 William Street after the 2019 fire.*

City of Ottawa is no stranger to CIPs – there are plans in Bells Corners and Orléans which focus on redeveloping underutilized lands. The goal of the Heritage CIP is to encourage the restoration and redevelopment of buildings designated under Parts IV and V of the *Ontario Heritage Act*. The program targets institutional, commercial, mixed-use and mid to large-scale residential buildings to help offset the cost of the restoration of heritage attributes. This is encouraged by offering a financial incentive in the form of an annual grant funded from incremental property tax assessments and the corresponding increased contribution to tax revenue made by the owner.

The Heritage CIP permits the City to provide financial incentives to property owners undertaking restoration of heritage attributes for a redevelopment proposal, and assists in achieving improved building architecture, site design and site landscaping. The program reimburses up to 75% of the increase in the municipal portion of the property taxes over a 10-year period to a maximum of \$500,000 or the value of the heritage restoration, whichever is less.

## First application

The first application for the Heritage CIP was received in the spring of 2021 for the Vittoria Trattoria restaurant on William Street in the ByWard Market. The property suffered a fire in 2019 that damaged much of the building. The proposal



*Proposal to restore and redevelop the property at 35-37 William Street.*

included the conservation of the two-storey William Street façade and development of a new building in the rear. Heritage staff worked with the applicant's heritage consultant to ensure that the highest standards of heritage conservation were being followed. Additionally, staff worked with the applicant on the design of the new building behind the restored walls to ensure that the

design, materials and massing do not negatively impact the surrounding heritage conservation district. City Council approved a grant of \$387,000 in June 2021.

### The future

With the first application under its belt, staff are looking forward to welcoming future applications under the Heritage Community

Improvement Plan. For more information about the program, please contact: Ashley Kotarba, Heritage Planner, City of Ottawa, [Ashley.Kotarba@Ottawa.ca](mailto:Ashley.Kotarba@Ottawa.ca) or visit: Heritage Community Improvement Plan | City of Ottawa.

*Ashley Kotarba is a planner with the City of Ottawa Right of Way Heritage and Urban Design Services.*

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## Introducing the New Executive and Board Members

At the first meeting following the 2021 Annual General Meeting the new Board of Directors selected a new executive committee.

Three officers from the previous executive have retired from their positions: Richard Belliveau as President, Anne Maheux as Treasurer, and Katherine Spencer Ross as Secretary.

### The newly elected officers are:

**Treasurer** – Zeynep Ekim, a director since 2018, and active with walking tours and lectures. Zeynep is an architect with the firm ERA Architects Inc.

**Secretary** – Martin Rice, head of the Walking Tour committee, responsible for the planning and organization of the Walking Tour program for many years.

**President** – not filled at this time. The duties and responsibilities of the chair will be shared until a future president is selected.

The other three incumbents have agreed to stay on in their current capacities:

**Vice President Operations** – Linda Hoad

**Vice President Communications** – Carolyn Quinn

**Vice President Development** – Gilles Séguin

Richard Belliveau and Katherine Spencer Ross are remaining on the Board, having been re-elected as Directors at the AGM. Anne Maheux is leaving the Board after serving many years as Treasurer, and the Board expressed its profound gratitude for her meticulous and devoted service.

Congratulations and best wishes to the members of the new executive, and thank you all for your devoted service to Heritage Ottawa.

### Board of Directors – losses

Julie Dompierre left the board in February of this year.

François Bregha board member and member of the advocacy and walking tour committees.

Long-time board member and former president Leslie Maitland, member of the advocacy and lecture committees.

Francois and Leslie will continue to serve on committees.

### Board of Directors – gains

**Gorana Botic**

Gorana is a graduate of Carleton

University and has a Master of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership (2017). Her academic pursuits have broadened her knowledge on emerging trends, challenges and opportunities in the nonprofit and philanthropic sector. Gorana has had a keen interest in heritage conservation, particularly after obtaining student employment on Parliament Hill and at Vimy Ridge.

### Maya Bugorsky

Maya is currently a Communications Advisor for Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada. As a student she worked with the NCC here in Ottawa and Veterans Affairs Canada in France. She recently completed the University of Victoria's Heritage Resource Management Certificate.

### John Zvonar

John is recently retired from the federal government Centre of Expertise in Heritage Conservation where he provided advice for protecting nationally-significant cultural landscapes, notably for Parks Canada, and the Parliamentary and Judicial Precincts. He also continues his active involvement with the Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation.



# 2021 Cullingham Research and Publication Grant Recipients

By Carolyn Quinn

Heritage Ottawa is delighted to announce the awarding of three Gordon Cullingham Research and Publication Grants.

Local artist Karen Bailey, who describes herself as “a visual storyteller,” was awarded a grant in support of her project, *The Cundell Stables*, which combines both fine art and local history. Located at 113-115 York Street, Cundell Stables is the last horse stables in Lowertown. The Cundell family has worked with horses in the area since the 1870s and from the present location since 1940. It is the last remaining vestige of Lowertown’s equine history. With development proposed on the neighbouring property and a 17-storey hotel planned directly across the street, the future of this unique piece of Ottawa’s heritage is at risk.

Karen created a series of acrylic paintings that record the lived experiences of the Cundell family and its horse stabling business. She partnered with researcher and writer Marc Aubin — who has deep roots in Lowertown — who is contributing the written component of the project. The resulting publication will be an illustrated history of the Cundell family within the context of Lowertown with reproductions of Karen’s paintings supplemented by historic photographs.

The Friends of the Central Experimental Farm, a charitable volunteer group founded in 1988 to contribute to the retention of public areas of the Farm, is overseeing

a new publication focused on the built heritage of this treasured National Historic Site. *Building Canada’s Farm: An Illustrated Guide to Buildings at the Central Experimental Farm* will look at nearly three dozen buildings, their design features in relation to their function, the architectural trends of the era in which they were constructed, the major research accomplishments associated with them, and the men and women who worked and in some cases lived in these buildings.

The Farm’s architectural heritage encompasses a range of building types including ornate residences, barns, greenhouses, offices and laboratories, as well as the former Dominion Observatory, with most dating to the period from 1886 to the 1930s that reflect the values of the “picturesque.” The authors, historian Patricia Jasen and journalist and photographer Richard Hinchcliff, are preparing the book as a useful guide for visitors. The project is timely, as the Farm prepares to face many challenges with the planned construction of the new Ottawa hospital.

At a time when increasing numbers of Canadians are reconsidering the significance of monuments as expressions of our culture and society, Carleton University professors Tonya Davidson and David Dean are undertaking a scholarly yet highly accessible re-thinking of the role of statues and monuments in our lives and in Canada’s collective memory. The book they are editing,

*Monumental Memories: A Critical Reading of Memorials, Monuments, and Statues in Canada’s Capital Region*, will catalogue 149 monuments. The entries, written by historians, sociologists, urban planners, artists, musicians, and descendants of the figures commemorated, will offer a diversity of perspectives.

The objectives for the book are to present an introduction and analysis of monuments in the National Capital Region in terms of what they reveal about Canadian history, identity, and contemporary forms of belonging. In so doing, they hope readers will consider the monuments from different vantage points: as art objects, as policy dilemmas, as artistic interventions, and more. The book will be arranged by geographic location, making it a valuable accompaniment while on an Ottawa stroll.

Created in 2008, the Cullingham Research and Publication Grant keeps Gordon Cullingham’s legacy alive. Gordon was a journalist, broadcaster, editor, heritage activist and long-standing member of Heritage Ottawa who passionately advocated for heritage conservation in and around Ottawa.

**Donations to the Cullingham Grant in support of researchers and writers in the field of heritage conservation are welcome. Contact Heritage Ottawa for more information.**

*Carolyn Quinn is a long-time Heritage Ottawa Board member and friend of Gordon Cullingham.*

# A Wind of Change is Blowing on Canada's Historic Places

Improving the protection of Canada's cultural heritage through a legislative proposal

By Parks Canada

*[Editor's note: One of Heritage Ottawa's advocacy priorities is the protection of federal heritage resources. Following the recent announcement of funding to implement new legislation to protect federally owned historic places we asked Parks Canada to contribute an article about this initiative.]*

Currently, the Government of Canada relies on a range of legislation and policies to identify, evaluate, designate, and then protect and conserve historic places owned by the Government of Canada. The various policy and legal regimes to which federal designations are subject mean that designation of a heritage property does not necessarily result in its protection or conservation. In recent years, however, there have been increasing calls for greater protection of historic places in Canada, in particular through stand-alone legislation.

In response, the Agency has held multiple engagement sessions with federal departments and other stakeholders since spring 2020. In addition, more than 140 Indigenous governments, organizations and groups have been invited to provide input. Finally, in response to numerous recommendations received at the Minister's Roundtable in October 2020, three actions were identified to strengthen the protection of federal cultural heritage.

- Parks Canada will work towards strengthening legislation related to the designation of places, persons and events of national historic significance and the protection of federally owned historic places.
- Parks Canada will explore opportunities to increase support to owners of historic places.

- Parks Canada will continue to implement the Framework for History and Commemoration: National Historic Sites System Plan 2019.

The April 19 2021 budget proposed to provide \$28.7 million over five years, starting in 2021-22, and \$5.8 million ongoing, for the Parks Canada Agency to implement new legislation that, if enacted, would provide a transparent designation framework as well as the sustainable protection of the over 300 federally owned historic places. This investment would support better protection of these national cultural treasures.

For questions about federally administered historic sites, please contact Parks Canada at [pc.legislationlieuxhistoriques-historicplaceslegislation.pc@canada.ca](mailto:pc.legislationlieuxhistoriques-historicplaceslegislation.pc@canada.ca).



## Heritage Ottawa Membership and Donation Form

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- ☐ Family Membership : \$35.00
- ☐ Corporate/Institutional : \$120.00

Charitable donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(official tax receipts issued for amounts over \$25, Charity Registration Number 893096776 RR0001)

- ☐ I prefer to receive my copy of the Newsletter by mail
- ☐ I prefer to read the Newsletter online

**Permission** (Only information that is necessary to conduct Heritage Ottawa business is collected. Your information is not shared with other organizations.)

- ☐ I give Heritage Ottawa permission to contact me via email or telephone.

**Total Payment \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make cheque payable to Heritage Ottawa** Mail to: Heritage Ottawa, 2 Daly Avenue, Ottawa, ON K1N 6E8